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Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Principals:

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX (API) REPORTS FOR DISTRICTS
AND
SCHOOLS IN THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL (ASAM)**

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) REPORTS FOR ALL SCHOOLS AND ALL DISTRICTS

The purpose of this letter is to let you know how the California Department of Education (CDE) plans to provide you with the information (data) necessary for you and the state to comply with the accountability provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. Our current reporting plans reflect changes approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) to comply with the requirements of the NCLB legislation and specify that all schools will be included in a single accountability system. **Please note that these plans are still subject to federal approval of our state *Accountability Workbook* to comply with the NCLB federal legislation. Should future negotiations with the federal government result in a change to our plans, we will notify you of the changes as soon as possible.**

Key to the NCLB accountability provisions are Academic Performance Index (API) results and measures of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all schools and districts. We will discuss each of these areas separately.

Academic Performance Index (API) Reports for Districts and Schools in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM)

2002 Base API for All School Districts and All Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) Schools

2002 Base API reports were provided publicly in February 2003. However, these reports were not provided for either ASAM schools or school districts. Following the new accountability workbook plan, all school districts and all schools in the ASAM should expect to receive a 2002 Base API for the first time in June 2003. A Base API will be reported for each ASAM school and each school district that had at least 11 valid test scores and who also tested at least 85 percent of their eligible students in each content area in 2002.

These APIs will also serve as a measure of AYP for federal purposes under the NCLB legislation. For accountability purposes, our interpretation of the NCLB requirements is that before a local education agency can be held accountable, it must have at least 100 students in calculations. Therefore, API reports containing less than 100 students are for disclosure purposes only under AYP to let districts and schools know their current performance on these measures.

In recognition of the markedly different educational missions and populations served by ASAM schools, API reports for ASAM schools will not include statewide or similar school rankings. District reports will not include rankings because these rankings are calculated at the school level only. **The 2002 Base APIs for districts and 2002 Base APIs for ASAM schools are scheduled to be posted on the CDE Web site in early June at** [<http://api.cde.ca.gov/reports.html>](http://api.cde.ca.gov/reports.html).

However, if you were to check our Web site today for an API for one of your ASAM schools, you would not find one listed, you would instead receive a notice as to why no API is posted. The notice states that either the school serves a non-traditional student population and has elected to participate in the ASAM, or more specifically that the school has not met the criteria required to receive an API (e.g., test participation rates too low, excess number of parent test waivers). In June 2003, ASAM schools not meeting API criteria will continue not to have an API report posted and the notice statement will indicate why one was not provided.

2002 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Participation Rates at ASAM Schools

As mentioned earlier, schools must have tested at least 85 percent of their eligible students in order to receive an API. You will receive further notification about any ASAM schools with low participation rates in 2002 for grades 4 and 7 writing assessments and any ASAM schools with low 2002 participation rates for the California Standards Test in mathematics for grades 2-9. You can review participation rates for other content areas on the CDE 2002 data review Web site at [<http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api/2002data/>](http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api/2002data/).

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports for All Schools and All Districts

The NCLB requires that every school and school district must demonstrate AYP by:

- Meeting annual measurable objectives (AMOs) in mathematics and English language arts (ELA). These are defined in terms of a prescribed percentage of students who score at or above the proficient level in mathematics and English language arts. These percentages are derived from California Standards Test (CST) and California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) results; and
- Increasing graduation rates, if the school or school district enrolls high school students.

Additionally, California has designated the API as an additional academic indicator, as provided under the NCLB. Schools and school districts must demonstrate progress on the API to make AYP.

For details on how the CDE proposes to use these indicators to determine AYP, please refer to the aforementioned *Accountability Workbook* on the CDE Web site at [<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pr/nclb/>](http://www.cde.ca.gov/pr/nclb/).

2002 AYP Baseline Reports for Schools and School Districts

The purpose of the 2002 AYP Base Report is to give districts and schools, including those participating in the ASAM, their starting points in mathematics and ELA. Each year all districts and schools of a certain size are required to meet AMOs that increase over a twelve-year period, until all students in California are proficient or above in both mathematics and ELA.

The 2002 Base AYP Reports are advisory only: they will not be used to identify Title I schools for Program Improvement (PI). The reports will indicate the current status in schools and districts in regard to the AMOs. The reports will also provide participation rates (based on enrollment on the first day of testing as measured by the number of completed student answer documents) in 2002 STAR and CAHSEE testing.

To meet AYP, districts and schools must test at least 95 percent of students enrolled on the first day of testing in the grades tested. This 95 percent participation rate applies districtwide, schoolwide, and to each numerically significant subgroup (i.e., ethnic groups, socioeconomically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities). Under California's accountability workbook plan, to be numerically significant, subgroups would have to have at least 100 valid test scores or 50 valid test scores making up at least 15 percent of valid scores schoolwide.

Annual Measurable Objectives

Districts, schools, and all numerically significant subgroups must all meet common AMOs. These AMOs are based on the percentages of students scoring at proficient or above on the mathematics or ELA components of the CST or on the CAHSEE. According to the target schedule proposed by the CDE in the accountability workbook, the AMOs for 2003 will be identical to the statewide 2002 starting points. The 2002 AYP Report will indicate whether or not the results would have met the 2003 AMOs.

Secondary Schools – California High School Exit Examination

In order to use the CAHSEE to derive the necessary percentages for secondary schools, separate cut scores will be established for both the mathematics and ELA portions of the test. These cut scores **do not** correspond to the passing scores on CAHSEE; instead, they will reflect the more rigorous CST performance levels. **These more rigorous cut scores are for NCLB purposes only; they will not be used to determine passing scores on the CAHSEE.**

Small Districts and Schools

Districts and schools must be of a certain minimum size in order for the CDE to make an AYP determination. According to the proposal in the *Accountability Workbook*, there must be at least 100 students eligible for testing and 100 valid scores for the CDE to make this determination. If schools do not meet these criteria, then the districts will be responsible for determining AYP based on standard procedures, which the CDE plans to disseminate in June. These procedures will include using the ASAM results to determine AYP for ASAM schools that do not meet the minimum size criteria. **We anticipate that this alternate means of establishing AYP will apply to the majority of schools that are currently registered in the ASAM.**

Timeline

After May 1, 2003 you will receive a letter with the posting date and details about the content of the 2002 AYP Baseline reports. Just before the actual posting, we will notify county and district accountability coordinators via e-mail. There are no other notifications planned.

2003 AYP Sanctions

Federal sanctions are attached to AYP outcomes for schools receiving federal Title I funds, including Title I schools in ASAM and charter schools. Title I schools may be in jeopardy if they fail to meet AYP targets. Schools receiving Title I funds will be identified for PI if they fail to make AYP for two consecutive years. For example, a school that failed AYP in 2002 (based on the old definition) and failed AYP in 2003 would enter PI. That school would have to provide parents the option to transfer students to another non-PI school within the district with paid transportation costs. An existing PI school that failed AYP in 2003 would move to the next level of requirements under NCLB. A chart showing different scenarios for new and existing PI schools is available on our Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/iasa/titleone/pi/0304scenarios.pdf>.

For questions about AYP sanctions for PI, contact Maria Reyes, Consultant, Title I Policy and Partnerships Office, at (916) 319-0854.

2003 NCLB Participation Rate Requirement

Schools and districts will be required to meet the NCLB 95 percent participation rate requirement for the 2003 testing cycle. This requirement is applied schoolwide, districtwide, and to each numerically significant subgroup. Participation rates, numerically significant subgroups, and size of schools and districts are determined by enrollment on the first day of testing, not the number of valid scores. The 95 percent participation rate is applied separately to English language arts and mathematics assessments. **If participation rates are below 95 percent schoolwide or for any numerically significant subgroup in either English language arts or mathematics, then the school will fail to meet AYP.**

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More Information

For current information on the California accountability workbook plan, *State of California Consolidated State Application Accountability Workbook*, you can visit the “No Child Left Behind - Federal Education Reforms in California” Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/pr/nclb/>. Please note that this plan is subject to federal approval and may change.

If you have questions regarding the 2002 Base API or 2002 Baseline AYP reports, please contact the Educational Planning and Information Center, at (916) 319-0863 or via e-mail at epic@cde.ca.gov. If you have questions regarding ASAM school data collection, reporting, and local determination of AYP, please contact the Educational Options Office, at (916) 322-5021 or (916) 445-7746 or via e-mail at rbakke@cde.ca.gov. Schools participating in the ASAM are required to submit data on their performance indicators for school year 2002-2003 between June 15 and August 15, 2003. Access information and PIN codes for the ASAM On-line Reporting System (ORS) will be provided to superintendents and school principals in early June.

Sincerely,

William L. Padia, Director
Policy and Evaluation Division

WP:pw

cc: Accountability Coordinator (via e-mail)
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